

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of September 11, 2009, and is concurrently filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9-19 are pending in the application. Claims 11-15 have been withdrawn from further consideration due to an earlier election/restriction requirement. Claims 1, 11 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. No amendment to the specification has been made. No fee is due.

Record is also made of a telephone interview between applicant's representative and the Examiner which took place on December 3, 2009. The Examiner is thanked for his help and assistance as well as for the courtesies extended to Counsel at that time. During the course of the interview, the present application was extensively discussed in light of the final rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9-10, 16-19, and as a result, applicant now submits this amendment to place the application in formal condition for allowance. The amendments to claim 1 are drawn up in accordance with the discussion at the interview as to amendments to claim 1, and the Examiner agreed that the subject matter of claim 1, as amended appears to be distinguishable over the applied prior art. However, an updated search is needed to make a final determination about patentability of independent claim 1.

In addition, withdrawn claim 11 has been amended to include all the limitations of presumably allowable claim 1. The Examiner is therefore requested to withdraw the restriction requirement and to rejoin nonelected claims 11-15 in this application.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is considered patentably differentiated over the prior art of record and believed to be in immediate conditions for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are thus respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be

helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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